



Ministry
of Defence

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[Redacted]

15 August 2017

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 19 July in which you requested the following information:

1. *Please could you provide the number of soldiers who were subject to drug testing in 2017?*
 - 1 (a) *Of those, how many tests indicated a soldier had misused drugs or substances?*
 - 1 (b) *If possible, please could you provide further information as to which drugs were found in these tests?*
 1. (c) *Of those who tested positive for misuse of drugs or substances, how many were discharged as a result?*

2. *If army reservists are not included in the totals for question 1, please could I have the number of army reservists who were who were subject to drug testing in 2017?*
 2. (a) *Of those, how many tests indicated a soldier had misused drugs or substances?*
 2. (b) *If possible, please could you provide further information as to which drugs were found in these tests?*
 2. (c) *Of those who tested positive for misuse of drugs or substances, how many were discharged as a result?*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held and can be found below. In answer to part two of your request, I can confirm that Army Reservists are included in the figures.

Number of Compulsory Drug Tests (CDTs) in 2017 (01 Jan – 30 Jun 17) and how many of those were positive.

Year	2017 (01 Jan – 30 Jun 17)
No. Tests	37920
No. Positives	300

Breakdown of drugs found in these CDTs.

Cocaine	Ecstasy	Heroin	Cannabis	Benzodiazepine	Steroids	Ketamine	Amphetamine
200	20	-	80	-	10	-	-

Number of soldiers discharged in 2017 (01 Jan – 30 Jun 17) as a result of a positive CDT.

Year	2017 (01 Jan – 30 Jun 17)
No. Discharges	170

Notes:

- The first table shows the number of tests rather than the number of soldiers tested.
- The 'no of positives' row data shows the number of personnel who have tested positive, not the number of tests.
- Figures for positive drug tests and discharges have not been cross-checked and have come from different data sources.
- Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, except where specified, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
- “-“ denotes zero or rounded to zero.
- Rounding is necessary, as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity; it also improves the clarity of output and conveys an appropriate level of precision to users.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that Personnel caught taking drugs can expect to be discharged. In a very small number of exceptional circumstances, where an uncharacteristic mistake is made by a young Service Person, second chances may be considered. This only happens where a Commanding Officer believes the individual meets the stipulated retention criteria. These retention criteria are laid out in Joint Service Publication 835, which is available on the gov.uk website. If an application is made to discharge an individual who has tested positive the process may not be completed in the same year.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

Army Secretariat